

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the suggestions for amending the application. In response to the rejections, the claims have been amended to conform with 35 USC 112. In addition, the subject matter of claim 13 has been added to independent claim 8. Claim 13 has been canceled to avoid duplication.

Claims 8 – 10 and 12 – 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly unpatentable over USP 6,598,011, hereinafter Howards Koritzinsky.

Howards Koritzinsky discloses a medical diagnostic system services interface that includes a plurality of medical diagnostic systems 12 that are connected to a network 80 through communications modules 32, 48, 62. A service facility 22 is also connected to the system 10 through the network. Each of the medical diagnostic systems 12 are controlled by a respective system controller 30, 46, 60, which is connected to the network 80 by the respective communication modules 32, 48, 62.

In contrast to the Howards Koritzinsky system, independent claim 8 recites a network that includes two or more MRI apparatuses connected to a same server computer, wherein each of the MRI apparatus has an excitation and receiving unit and a driving unit for the excitation and receiving unit, wherein the network includes a communication bus to which each of the client computers is connected and *each of the driving units includes one or more electronic cards, and each of the cards has an input/output interface with the communication bus*, while the input data and output data exchanged between the electronic cards is coded according to common data coding protocols.

By providing each unit and/or each electronic card forming a unit with its communication interface for the specific communication bus in use, the single units of the apparatus may be added or removed very easily, e.g., for upgrading, integrating or repair purposes. See paragraphs [0033] and [0034] of the present application.

Howards Koritzinsky does not teach or suggest the now claimed features of the present invention, or the advantages that flow therefrom. Accordingly, amended claims 8-10, 12 and 14 are now patentable over the applied prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the present rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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